

Application No. 10/721,358

Docket No.: 1020/0132PUS1

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Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 11 being independent.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glienicke (US 6,224,221); claims 1, 4-9, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zysnarski et al. (US 6,590,174); and claims 2, 3, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zysnarski et al. . These rejections are respectfully traversed insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims.

Applicants have amended the independent claims in an effort to clarify the invention. Accordingly, in view of the amendments made thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to teach or suggest at least "an optical light guide formed from a single piece that includes two parts, the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot." The dependent claims should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

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Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 621-7140, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3828 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: February 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Martin R. Geissler
Registration No.: 51,011

McGrath, Geissler, Olds & Richardson, PLLC
10560 Main Street, Suite 213
Fairfax City, Virginia 22030
(703) 621-7140
Attorney for Applicant